

AMATEUR RADIO



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IT DID HAPPEN!

How many times it has been said of a national disaster overseas with lines of communication gone, "Oh, it can't happen here." It DID! After months of drought and days of high temperatures the worst bush fires in the history of the Commonwealth broke out. With temperatures throughout Victoria and South Australia, everywhere, between 110 and 120 degrees and fanned by a 40/60 m.p.h. gale, the position rapidly got out of hand. With half of Victoria ablaze, towns wiped out and the death roll mounting, communication to the stricken areas became a matter of paramount importance. A short time after the W.I.A. in Victoria and South Australia had offered the full resources of their organisations to the authorities, portable stations were on their way to the most vital points, some of them 250 miles away.

The rest of the story is one of efficiency and endurance, initiative and determination. Those portables had to work and they DID. Every station that went out was through to its control a short time after its arrival at its destination. Reading through some of the reports that are coming through (for as we go to press the work is still going on) one feels a glow of pride and satisfaction. "Fifteen minutes after arriving we had unpacked the gear and were pushing through the first message to the control station." "With lines of communication down for days we

gave them replies to their first reports in a short time." There are epic stories behind those bald statements of fact. Traffic handling is no easy job sitting quietly in one's shack with all "mod. cons.," but stuck in the midst of a devastated area, with nothing but a car battery for power, the handling of 400 group messages is a job that is worthy of unstinted praise.

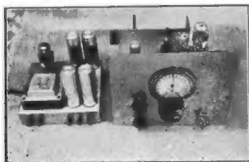
The full story is not yet told because the work is still going on, but a tribute must be paid to those who rendered such magnificent co-operation. To the Australian Aerial Medical Services for flying special equipment over to supplement that on hand, to the employers who gave leave of absence to the hams who took part, to the P.M.G.'s Department for their wholehearted co-operation, to the hams who helped to keep the channels clear of QRM and finally to those hundreds who in big ways and small did everything they could to assist those who formed the emergency nets.

To those of you who did the job; you have done something that the W.I.A. and your fellow hams in Australia will never forget. You have proved that a VK can rise to the occasion as admirably as the ZL's, W's and others have proved they can. You have lived up to the noblest traditions of our hobby. Great work! We are proud of you!

Making the TRF Perform

(By VK3ML, Technical Editor.)

In spite of certain inherent failings, the T.R.F. receiver is still holding its own against the superhet. Probably cost is the main drawback to the super for some hams, and it is felt that so-called two and three tube supers are not worth while. Therefore, the old reliable devil we do know can show a point or two to those three cylinder supers if a little extra care is taken in—

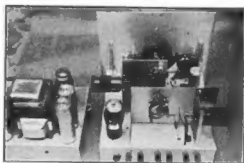


- (1) The layout.
- (2) Construction.
- (3) Choice of components.

The receiver described here is the result of a made up job after some deliberation, and although it is an "all waver," going from 3 to 500 metres, it could easily be adapted to ham use by tapping the coils with the tuning condenser or utilising any of the more common band spreading devices. The tube line-up consists of a 6K7G as the R.F. amplifier, a 6K7G as regenerative detector, and a 6F6G as audio stage. The essential feature to be noted is the lay-out of components. In fig. 1 we note at the left back corner the RF grid coil, the base of which feeds the grid of the 6K7G RF tube directly. The 6K7G is lying on its side with the grid poking through the metal partition, and is barely noticeable under the RF tuning condenser in Fig. 2.

Along an easy flowing line the RF travels via the 6K7G stage to the detector coil on the centre left of fig. 2. The grid lead from this coil base to the grid of the 6K7G detector could be shorter than the length of the T.C.C. mica grid condenser if that were possible. A 6K7G detector tube was chosen because of its variable MU characteristics, and its great oscillating powers. This tube flies into oscillation on 3 metres with the greatest of ease.

Transformer coupling between the RF and detector stages is used to provide controlled selectivity (according to the coupling factor chosen) and adjustable gain (through the transformer primary impedance). A third winding for the regeneration is employed in preference to the tapped coil-cathode system (just an old fad.) This section of the receiver is the heart of the works, and with high quality components can provide really surprising results.



Choke impedance coupling to the 6F6G audio tube provides sufficient gain to drive that tube to its full output and to give good speaker volume. As the receiver uses a permanent speaker no output transformer is wired in the set; but for phones work it would be necessary to use an external transformer or choke output control.

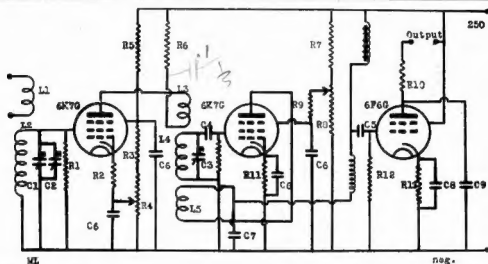
Ganging of the two condensers produced no serious problem over the whole tuning range because of the use of a small trimmer condenser across the RF grid coil, and brought out to the front via the flexible coupling of Eddystones (see fig. 3). When a signal is tuned in a slight adjustment of this condenser is all that is necessary to resonate the circuits thoroughly.

An external power supply is preferred in this receiver to avoid hum pick-up by the sensitive detector. An H.T. supply of 250 volts at 50 millamps is all that is required by

the receiver, but it gives satisfactory performance with as low as 180 volts.

Smooth tuning control at both low and high speeds is provided by the Eddystone slow motion dial, and at the 100:1 ratio, even without bandspread, signals on the highest frequency bands are easily tunable.

The chassis, panel and shields are all made out of aluminium. Dimensions for the chassis are 10in. by 10in. by 2½in. deep. The panel measures 11in. wide by 8½in. high. The requirements for the partitions are: One piece 10 by 5in., 6 by 4½in., and

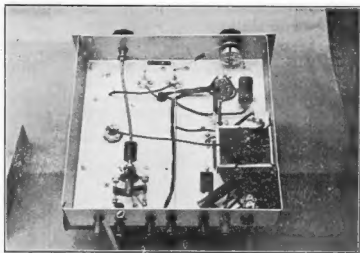


- R1 2 megohms
R2 250 ohms
R3 15,000 ohms
R4 10,000 ohms pot
R5 20,000 ohms
R6 10,000 ohms or RFC.
R7 25,000 ohms
R8 50,000 ohms pot
R9 0.1 megohm
R10 100 ohms
R11 1000 ohms

- R12 0.1 megohm
R13 450 ohms
C1 15 m.mfd trimmer
C2 100 m.mfd microdenser
C3 100 m.mfd microdenser
C4 100 m.mfd mica
C5 0.1 mfd
C6 0.01 mfd
C7 100 m.mfd
C8 25 mfd electrolytic
C9 .001 mfd

Coils.—All wound on Eddystone standard coil bases.

Coverage	Turns		Inductance	L3	L4	Inductance	L5
	L1	L2					
9-14	3	2½	0.50 uH	1½	2½	0.51 uH	3
14-26	2	3½	1.08 uH	2	3½	1.07 uH	3
22-47	4½	8½	3.62 uH	4½	8½	3.62 uH	4½
41-94	9½	23½	14.24 uH	9½	23½	14.13 uH	9½
76-170	15	35	45.0 uH	10	35	45.0 uH	14
150-325	25	92	0.188 mH	42	92	0.188 mH	35
260-510	40	138	0.420 mH	90	138	0.428 mH	40
490-1000	30	315	1.90 mH	200	315	1.53 mH	80
1000-2000	140	630	6.98 mH	360	630	7.05 mH	140



5 by 3 3/8 in. 16 or 18 gauge metal is recommended.

Much of the more usual descriptive matter in articles of this nature is considered unnecessary in this case because there is nothing new in the circuit, etc., and we do not like repeating old stories. Consequently the object of producing a receiver with a high efficient layout and design has been fulfilled in this

short article, aided by the more or less self explanatory photographs.

In conclusion, it is felt that this receiver possesses performance that one would expect of a really good TRF receiver and duplication of the lay-out can well be recommended. It is not always the components that count, but it is how they are used that gives the results.

Bushfires Devastate Two States

Hams Provide Emergency Communications

VICTORIA.

On Friday, 13th January, as the bush fire situation in Victoria became critical, the Victorian Division offered the full resources of its operators and equipment to the Forest Commission. On Saturday, 14th, the Commission advised that communications were urgently required to Tallangatta, 230 miles from Melbourne, Bright (188 miles), Wood's Point (200 miles), Noojee (110 miles), and Beech Forest (130 miles). Although many other places were isolated, stations at the above-mentioned points would provide centres to which information and reports could be sent. Omeo was also

devastated, but on Wednesday, 11th, 3WE had been handling P.M.G. and Forestry traffic with 3FL and 3NI in Melbourne. As this channel had been proving so effective over a period of days, subsequent organisation was made, leaving it intact. The main problem was to get sufficient operators who at a moment's notice could leave their homes and jobs for an indefinite period, but within a short time 3SG and 3ML were on their way to Bright, 3UM and 3RZ to Wood's Point, 3ZV and 3VG to Noojee, and 3UK to Beech Forest. Each station took full camping equipment and food for three to four days, and in every case except one the parties supplied their own transport.

3EG of Tallangatta was able to provide the station required there, and 3ZC formed the Melbourne control station, with 3QK relieving him. In case further equipment was required, the Australian Aerial Medical Services kindly loaned all they had available in Melbourne, and arranged to fly two additional outfits over from Adelaide immediately.

The results were a real confirmation of the general efficiency and initiative of the Radio Amateur. Every station was through to Melbourne shortly after arriving at its destination. The frequencies chosen and the suitability of equipment for the work clearly illustrated the Ham's ability to cope with any emergency.

Reports are still coming through, but the following is a brief survey of what the emergency net has done so far:—

OMEQ.—3WE, a resident of Omeo, immediately placed his station at the disposal of the authorities after regular communication had broken down and handled well over 150 telegrams with 3FL and 3NI in Melbourne.

TALLANGATTA.—3EG, who lives there, was acquainted of the fact that the Forest Commission urgently needed a channel to their Forest Officer, and he immediately arranged schedules with the Melbourne control station, 3ZC, and handled all Tallangatta traffic from early Sunday morning.

MELBOURNE.—The control station was 3ZC, who did a grand job taking traffic from the various portables from Sunday morning until early Monday, when a severe power leak caused him to transfer the control to the relieving Melbourne station, 3QK. This latter station carried on throughout the day. 3ZC resumed in the evening. The same arrangement worked satisfactorily on Tuesday as well, 3QK taking over as soon as the power leak at 3ZC's occurred.

BEECH FOREST.—3UK and Geoff Searle had as equipment a 76 Pierce Oscillator feeding a 6V6G powered by a vibrator pack, a TRF battery receiver and a 7 mc. doublet aerial. A call was made at Colac on the way through, where the Colac and Camperdown hams were at work organising an additional station, which it was arranged would follow on to Beech Forest when ready. 618 words of urgent traffic were handled up to midday Monday, when the relief station took over. Colac transmitter was built by 3GQ, 3KX, 3KJ and 3GC and the receiver was 3KJ's. It was operated by 3GQ until 3PE arrived from Melbourne to act as the main operator, and their organisation of reliefs was such that the station was to remain there as long as they was any further danger.

BRIGHT.—3SG and 3ML took three transmitters, two receivers, batteries, a vibrator and an AC pack so that they could use whatever the occasion demanded. They operated from the Shire Hall in Bright, and handled over 180 words of traffic on 7 mc. The situation in the town was changed from a critical one 24 hours after their arrival by the downfall of over an inch of rain.

WOOD'S POINT.—3UM and 3RZ arrived at Wood's Point after a difficult trip to find the town wiped out. The value of their services can be imagined! They handled 697 words of urgent traffic on 7 mc., using a 6V6G E.C. oscillator powered from a genemotor, input 2.5 watts. They worked continuously through Monday and Tuesday, and after receiving a Forest Commission message to come home, after the P.M.G. line was restored, twice packed up, only to have to unpack again when the line went out again thorough falling trees.

NOOJEE.—3ZV and 3VQ were going on holidays with portable gear when they heard of the emergency, and as a result went to Noojee. On finding that the landline had been restored when they arrived they

went on and opened communication at different points where it was most needed. As no report from them has come to hand no details of their equipment or traffic is known.

3WG did a great job in organising the net, and as the work progressed was able to keep the wheels running smoothly. It is to his credit and to all who took part that not one hitch occurred. As one operator put it, "Working the control station was like dialling a telephone number." Thanks are due also to those many others who offered their services, to those who monitored the bands, and to those who made the work easier by keeping clear of the emergency channels.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

For the first time in the history of Amateur Radio in South Australia a chance came for the Amateurs to do their stuff and show that not all they did was to call CQ and work DX. Adelaide was experiencing a record week of heat waves and terrific bush fires had been raging for days, but on Friday, 13th January, the situation grew worse and B.C. stations were calling for more volunteers. Hearing that all communications were down, VK5KL got busy to try and get together some gear to proceed to the stricken areas. VK5JT was detailed to inquire from local R.I. if it was o.k. to go ahead. This permission came through as Frank Holsten, 5LX, arrived with his gear at a city address where 5KL was sending all inquiries.

As they passed on their way 5JT was again rung and told to keep an eye for them on 40 metres. Proceeding to Echunga, where all lines were down, the rig was set up near the post office, but before it could be got going properly, had to be shifted as the fire swept into the township and within a few yards of the gear. Setting up again further away contact was established after the first calls had been intercepted by the A.I.M. station at Broken Hill and wired to Adelaide.

All urgent appeals for men, water, goods and first-aid equipment were being handled to Joe Kilgariff, 5JT, who was in direct communication with the National Safety Council, who were controlling all volunteers and directing all operations. So many requests were made that permission was obtained to handle telegrams. As night fell skip took control and so traffic was handled through VK2AHM, who with 3CG, 3KY and 3TK were from early Friday afternoon keeping the emergency channels clear standing by in case they were needed.

VK2AHM handled the traffic back to 5JT until early morning, and here an ironic incident comes in. VK2AHM was handling a message from 5LX for an appeal for relief operators and a new set of batteries for the 32 volt rotary converter, while all the time his own were almost flat and then had to cut out while he recharged them. Such is the ham spirit to keep going while possible. 1.30 a.m. Frank Wreford, 5DW, arrived with the new batteries and so 5LX and 5KL snatched an hour's rest, then returned to the job. After VK2AHM retired VK2CI took over and he took the traffic through the early hours of the morning until the dawn contact was again possible direct to 5JT.

At 6 a.m. telephone communication was established to Echunga and so 5LX was immediately detailed to the Meadows, six miles further on, where no word had been heard direct for two days. Arriving there the constable was dug up and all traffic authorised by him. Here the operators were beset with telegrams and continued on until 1 p.m. Saturday. Everything being o.k. a snift was made to Prospect Hill, where the fires were reported to be bad. After traversing extra rough roads and finding all well, the rig was again erected, but trouble occurred. This was found to be a coupling condenser between stages. Two pieces of flex twisted together substituted in its place. Grub screws had been lost from condensers in the receiver so had to be set on 5JT's frequency. From Prospect Hill the next step was through Yanhalila and

to Blackwood and Belair, but all was well through these areas. The one blaze that was still going was investigated, but now at 7 p.m. clouds appeared in the sky and with spots of rain the operators reluctantly packed up and headed for home—nothing more could be done.

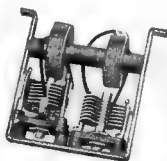
All Saturday VK3 stations could be heard handling emergency traffic in their own State and all knew they were doing their share. While 5LX was handling the bulk of the work, good work was done by 5HD, 5GB, 5GN, with 5GF's gear, and Mr. Don. Riegan. Proceeding to Aldgate they were intercepting messages from 5LX and what men and supplies could be despatched were done so from there to save time for men coming from the city. All Saturday until midnight this gear with 5GB and 5RT and 5ZU keeping half hourly schedules stood by with men of the Adelaide electric supply ready to be called upon at a minute's notice. Fortunately rain arrived and so all fires were subdued.

Mostly used was cw. as signals were weak and hard to copy in Adelaide. Here excellent work was done by Mr. Castle, VK5KL, who operated from 12 p.m. Friday until 7 p.m. Saturday with only one hour's sleep. No special praise can be given to one as all were on for the same time and did their particular job without fuss. To the following we give our congratulations in putting amateur radio on the map:—VK5's LX, JT, KL, DW, ZU, GB, HD, VK2AHM, 2CI, VK3TK, 3CG, and all those who so kindly kept our frequencies open. To firms who lent batteries, etc., also gear, our special thanks.

The gear used by 5LX was as follows:—Rlg. 42 ocs. 6L6 pa, 6N7 modulator receiver, 9 tube super; power was supplied from a 32 volt rotary converter giving 270 volts into transformers. Antenna was 66 ft. link coupled to final amplifier.

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Switching

A Few Notes on Policy, with a Simple Method of Station Switching

(By D. Randall Ayre, VK3KP.)

Have you ever stopped to think just why that pal of yours took nearly seven seconds to get on the air after you said "over"? Or why he missed the first few words you had to say? Maybe you're one of the lucky ones who can prattle about "pulling the big switch" without feeling self-conscious. If the switch really is big and if you have to pull only one of them, then, my friend don't bother to read any further. But if last New Year's resolution to install press-to-talk has somehow slipped a bit, then perhaps you may find something of interest in what I'm going to say.

Both for the sake of brevity and clarity, we'll consider the question in summarised form.

(a) WHO?

The answer to that one is every body, from the newcomer to the grey beard (and especially including those few band-hogging old timers who really believe that the divine right of Kings is applicable to Ham Radio). There are three reasons for including one and all:

1. Delay in changing over is a bad policy.
2. It doesn't cost much to fix it.
3. If you're not careful, successive stage switching can make some mighty queer noises on the air before you get going.

(b) WHY?

Something tells me that the nasty men are going to pick on this item. There are just a few of them in the Amateur Ranks and a very strange creed they have. It runs something like this: "What the heck do I care what I sound like on the air? I work the dx, don't I? Why waste good money on what half the lads haven't got, anyhow? I'll wait until I have to!"

Alright, nasty man. Forget all about courtesy. In between the times when you're tumbling on to the band and falling off it, why not make a job of it? Put a big fat smear right in the middle of the band and give the boys a real treat. Besides, the other fellow just loves the row you make while he's waiting for you to talk. It goes like this you know; more so, if you're close by: 2 to 5 seconds silence-click-hum-crack-more

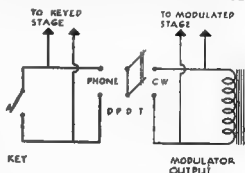


FIG. 1.

hum - bang - terrific hum - yoops, whistles, feedback-comparative silence-speech (good, bad or indifferent). And don't say its impossible. I've heard it.

As I said before, alright; forget courtesy, forget altogether the ideal of a clean, swift transmission technique just for its own sake. The sensible fellows know all about this without having it explained to them. But, nasty man, apparently you don't. Hence this next bit is just for you. It tells you how to gain something. Maybe that will interest you.

When you're working up-to-the-minute stations on the other side, and for that matter, right on your own doorstep, you're dealing with men who have a kind of love for efficiency. They often find it rather hard to understand the man who lacks that love. And you are by no

means the only pebble on the beach. You're going to lose quite a number of contacts if you waste too much time on the changeovers. If a signal doesn't appear when it should, and the QRM dogs are howling, 5 seconds makes a surprising difference. Maybe you think that's carrying things a bit too far? Don't you believe it! It's been tried both ways and the answer is still the same.

Then there is a decided saving in time, time all too valuable in contests. Just get into the habit of 10 to 30 second overs, and you'll be amazed at the number of extra, enjoyable QSO's you can fit in. Chiefly because you don't ramble on and repeat yourself in a half-hearted effort to avoid going over too quickly. It's easy the right way. But just imagine travelling down a row of switches to say twenty-five words.

(c) WHAT AND WHERE?

We'll consider a typical phone/cw station with all necessary equipment. You can easily break it down to suit your own rig. The component units are:—

1. Transmitter with power supplies.
2. Modulator with power supply.
3. Pre-amplifier with power supply.
4. Receiver with power supply.
5. Monitor with power supply.
6. Antenna or Antennas.
7. Keying Circuit.

Station switching is divisible into two sections:—(i) Start up switching; (ii) Changeover switching.

Although (ii) is one that matters most, its quite an idea to clean up (i) while you're at it. Taking each unit in turn, we'll set out the best method of switching it under these two heads and then combine all the units to form the whole station.

1.—Transmitter with Power Supplies.

(i) Start up switching: One S.P.S.T. Mains Switch—Rectifier heaters, Transmitter heaters, Plate transformers, Bias supplies.

(ii) Changeover switching: One S.P.S.T. switch—Centre-taps of all low voltage plate transformers to Earth.



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CABLES & TELEGRAMS "HILCOY" MELBOURNE

One S.P.S.T. switch—Centre tap of high voltage plate transformer to Earth. (If there is more than one high voltage transformer, have more than one switch.)

All changeover switches are ganged.

NOTES: The plate transformers can come on with the heaters since the change switching should normally leave the centre-taps open when the station is closed down.

When more than one transformer centre tap is connected to one switch, the insulation of the smallest transformer must be sufficient to cope with the voltage developed across the open switch by the biggest power supply connected to it.

If you think your low voltage transformers can stand it, by all means connect the higher voltage centre-taps across the same switch. It will help in reducing the number of contacts on the multiple changeover switch which is used to combine all the units. It will be seen that the above system of simultaneous centre-tap switching brings on all the stages at once. As long as your oscillator is not given to missing out on you, this is quite satisfactory. If things like that worry you, put some fixed or cathode bias here and there to hold the big tubes down when the drive falls.

Advantages of centre-tap switching here are saving of mains power, increased rectifier life, less high voltage playing round the switches than in B plus switching. Naturally, one still has B plus switches for neutralising adjustments, etc.

2.—Modulator with Power Supply.

(i) Start up switching: One S.P.S.T. mains switch—Rectifier heaters, modulator heaters, plate transformer, Bias supply.

(ii) Changeover switching: One S.P.S.T. switch—Centre-tap of plate transformer to Earth.

Advantages are as for Transmitter.

3.—Pre-Amplifier with Power Supply.

As for modulator, and connected to the same switches.

4.—Receiver with Power Supply.

(i) Start up switching: One S.P.S.T. mains switch—Heaters, plate transformer.

(ii) Changeover switching: One S.P.S.T. switch—Centre-tap of plate transformer to Earth.

The advantages of switching the centre-tap of the receiver are the same as for the transmitter with this notable addition, that it is much quieter than switching B plus.

5.—Monitor with Power Supply.

It must be admitted that it doesn't greatly matter how you switch this. Have it on all the time unless you really want to cut the power bill to pieces. We'll forget it from now on.

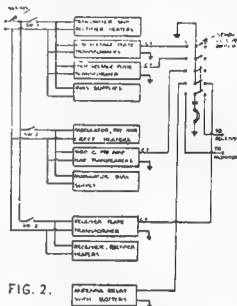


FIG. 2.

6.—Antenna or Antennas.

If there is only one antenna, it should be controlled by a D.P.D.T. relay controlled by a S.P.S.T. switch arranged so that the relay battery is on when the antenna is connected to the transmitter. This will save the battery, since you'll be doing a lot more receiving than transmitting.

If you're lucky enough to have two or more antennas, just leave 'em connected!

7.—Keying Circuit.

This subject really has but little relation to the matter of station switching, and in any case the actual method of keying adopted is largely a matter of circumstance or taste. Figure 1 shows a circuit for a phone/cw switch which is applicable to practically any rig.

Radiotron 902

2-inch Cathode Tube

This new release provides at a reasonable price the ideal means for checking modulation and waveform. The 902 requires only 400-600 volts supply and the deflection sensitivity is high.

Special Features

Octal base (same connections as 913).

Medium Persistence Screen.

Electrostatic deflection

Maximum diameter $2\frac{1}{8}$ ".

Maximum overall length $7\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Price £2/15/- nett

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Amateur Radio

The rest of the apparatus in the shack such as overmodulation indicator, frequency meter, etc., is, naturally, put on and off as required.

(d) HOW?

All the above changeover switches can be combined in one simple home made switch. Before discussing that, however, we'll deal with the matter of the start up switching.

All the main switching is controlled by three switches as follows: Switch No. 1, Unit 1 only; Switch No. 2, Units 2 and 3; Switch No. 3, Unit 4 only. Switches 1 and 3 prepare the station for CW, and the addition of Switch 2 prepares for phone. See Figure 2.

The changeover switching is arranged so that all the necessary switches are operated by the one lever; there is one point which makes for greater convenience of operation and that is to have an intermediate position where neither transmitter nor receiver are on. The switch should be left at this position at all times when the station is closed down, and this will ensure that, when the station is first switched on, the plate power will not be applied to

any mercury vapour rectifiers before their filaments have been allowed to warm up properly.

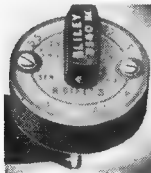
Figure 2 shows the wiring of the changeover circuits.

It should not be necessary to suggest ways of making the multi-pole two-way switch. A little ingenuity, coupled with a sober regard for the nature of the voltages which each section of the switch has to carry, will soon produce a suitable device. Incidentally, if your particular installation can be reduced to a four-pole double-throw switch, try one of the old-fashioned, ebonite-insulated anti-capacity switches. They were designed on spacious and liberal lines, and some of them will work quite happily at the centre-tap of a 2,000-c-2,000 transformer.

Spare contacts can be used to switch the phones from the receiver to the monitor. If you like to turn the changeover switch into a relay, you can install a push button and have real push-to-talk.

It may remove the qualms of the doubtful if I tell them that everything suggested above has not only been tried, but works well.

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28 and 56 M.C. Notes

(A. Pritchard, VK3CP.)

Conditions on ten meters show exceptionally strong signals from the States and the western side of Canada. During the afternoons a few stations from Asia and during the evening phones from Europe keep the band interesting. The most outstanding development seems to be the universal adoption of the three element beams, i.e., director, dipole and reflector. This beam seems very superior compared with the 8JK and very few are using this or other types now on 10. The gain is really remarkable, theoretically only 5.8 db over a half wave doublet, yet experience has shown an actual signal strength gain of at least 4 r points, giving 20 db gain and a signal that rides well above fading and background noise. It is equally effective if used for receiving also.

This beam has been in operation here at 3CP for a considerable time now and results are truly amazing. The centre of the dipole being only 8 ohms, makes the delta or Y matching feeder the most suitable. The matching section dimensions are not as critical as may be thought and 54 inches on each leg of the Y for feeders around 600 ohms, works out nicely. The actual measurements here are as follow:—Dipole, 16.8 feet; reflector, 17.3 feet; director, 16 feet; 5 feet director di-pole spacing and 3.36 di-pole reflector spacing. These measurements are for a frequency around 28400 kc.

VK3HK has fixed one of these rotaries on the top of his pole and listening here while he turned it, showed the signal completely out of audibility when back on. W7BQX uses two tubes in his rig for the RF section, 6L6 co and 807 doub with 30 watts input and modulated by a pair of 46's class B. The antenna gives us r9. He has three rhombics having 5 waves in each leg placed around his five acre hill which is just south of the city of Victoria, B.C. The feeders are made with 7/20 galvanised wire, 20 inch

spacing, 250 feet long and having an impedance of the necessary 800 ohms for direct feeding. Feeders are brought from each end of the diamonds so that they may be fed and resistor terminated either end, giving the beam in either direction as desired. 7BQX was r9 with correct feed and termination, r7 without the resistor and r2 when terminated and fed from the wrong end for us.

During the week of records for 100 to 114 degrees the W9 signals seemed to be the loudest from the States and on Sunday, 8th January W9DSR was r5 during a qso at mid-day. He was using 2 tubes, 30 as eco and single 19 final with five watts input, modulated by a pair of 49's. His 5 watt signals were 5 and seemed as consistent as the 700 watt phone from W9ROQ. Both use the 3 element beam and if 5 watts can do a job like that it shows its efficiency. The temperature here was 105 and 1 deg. above zero at W9DSR!

From VK4, 4VJ has excellent signals here, and although the W's contact many VK's, they are inaudible in VK3. VK2HF evidently has powerful signals by the number of W's calling him. It is quite a pleasure to listen on 5 meters with so many excellent xtal carriers. VK3OI from Brighton has r4 phone, and VK3DA r7, 3PS r9, 3JO rmax, 3YL r8, 4NB r8. These excellent phones show that hills between stations do not have the effect that was originally thought responsible for peculiar conditions on 5 and the idea that signals must be in optical range, now points to the fact that a concentrated carrier (crystal controlled) is of primary importance for any distance. VK3CZ gets efficiency plus with his new rig and the 800's in the final modulated by 809's class B, gives a fine signal. There are many VE5's on 10 and VE5AEZ, 5AA, 5OT, 5VP, 5GL, all have excellent phone. The cw portion of the band is alive around 7.30 a.m. and will give the cw men some dx.

VK3MR's DX Notes

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the sufferers in the recent tragic bush fires which swept over the country districts of Victoria. In spite of the terrible loss of life and the enormous destruction of property, much valuable data has been gleaned for any future use, especially as regards communication purposes when all the lines are down, as was the case this time, and it gave the amateurs the chance to prove their value in a case of emergency. Great work was done by 3WE and 3EG and others. Fuller particulars will be found somewhere else in this mag. By the way, ask Bill of 3WE if he likes milk in his tea!

Bad conditions are reported in all southern States this month, and little activity was the result. It seems that the States further north, to wit VK2/4 get the best end of the stick especially with S. American stations and S. Africans. VK7IZ has been doing a bit of dx when conditions are ok, and has worked VQ2MI, N. Rhodesia, and ST6KR, both are really rare for VK7. They were contacted around 1 a.m. on the HF end of 14 mc, and are consistent. Don't overlook VU7BR as he is a new country, qra J. Brown, Bapco, Bahrain Is., in the Persian Gulf. While on this very important subject of new countries, have a go at the chaps signing KC6, KF6 and KG6. These are the new prefixes for the U.S.A. Is. in the Pacific Ocean. KC6CKM, 14300 kc. is from Wake Is., and is on most nights. The complete listing of the Is. in the Pacific and other American possessions are as follows: KB4, Virgin Is.; KB6, Guam; KC6, Wake Group; KD6, Midway Is.; KE6 Johnson Is.; KF6, Baker, Howland and American Phoenix Is.; KG6, Jarvis and Palmyra group; KH6, American Samoa; K7, Ter of Alaska (including Pribilof Is.); KF6GHW will work as many as he can while there, and can be heard on solid fone most afternoons.

The South African DX Test is in full swing now, and 4EL seems to be giving it much of his attention, and he, as well as the other VK4's, seem to be able to work them when the more southern States can't. Those chaps still looking for South America are advised to keep their ears on 14 mc. from about 1800 to 2000, when LU3HK, 14275 kc.; LU5BL, 14480 kc.; PY5QG, 14370 kc., and CX1BG, 14408 kc., can be worked if they can beat the VK2's to it; Old CR9AA is still on the job with his scratch note in the W fone band and can be worked from 2a.m. onwards. 2DG has just received yet another certificate for winning the SP contest. Seems a habit with him.

The fone gang seem very quiet this month also. 3BM will be breaking out into CW now that he has got the dope on how to make his B.F.O. osc! It seems that English is becoming the universal language, judging by the number of European and Asiatic Hams heard lately. J2CS, J2KQ and 2MI speak excellent English, and are on the job most early evenings. Many Portuguese fones are reported by 3BM, the most outstanding being CT1OX, who can be worked about 5 a.m. by those who can wake up that time. It seems that W4DLH is having some trouble to repeat the fone WAC hook-up this year. 4VD reports working all the VP from 1 to 9. That's good work, Vince. Looks ok for the BERU contest coming off during the four week-ends of February. I would very much like to have the scores from the gang participating in this test for publication in the mag. What about it? Flash from Tasmania. VK7CD has taken unto himself a wife. Fine work, Ced. VK7JB has been transferred to VK2, so we may even hear him with a VK2 call yet. New prefix for Belgian Congo is OQ. OQ5ZZ can be heard around 5 a.m. on 14350 kc. using fone.

Divisional Notes

To ensure insertion all copy must be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 15th of the month preceding publication.

N.S.W. Division

ZONE 5 NOTES.

(By VK2IG.)

It is with great pleasure and pride that we find that the hams of Australia have been of service throughout the dreadful bush fires which we have experienced. Communications were established with the cities and other points by amateurs from Omeo, Bright, Tallangatta, Upper Murray and also in the Gippsland areas by means of their own portable outfits, and by using pedal wireless sets which were made available. Apart from their valuable experimental work, surely this is one phase which more than justifies their existence.

Conditions seem fair to bad on most bands, with static very bad, and also in Albury electric motor arm has been shocking.

VK2OJ.—Still very busy, and doesn't expect to be on for a while yet. Is talking of holidays soon.

VK2AP and Jess from 2YW have joined forces. Guess the xmitter will always be on now. Congrats. from all the boys to you both, Jess and Arthur.

VK2AFD.—Home for a few days, but back to Laverton.

VK2VK.—Also was home, but now back on his boat. Home in three weeks.

VK2IG.—Now back from hospital and doing a little, but rig playing up. Cards to hand from CP1AA, HB9CE and YR5TP.

2AEO, of Wagga.—Still among the DX, but may be shifted any time.

U.S.A. now using the new intermediate prefixes for the Islands,

such as Guam and Wake, etc., consisting of a letter between the K and 6, such as KC6MB, etc.

DX heard here include VP7, LA, ES, EI, EJ, VP5, VQ2, XZ, KC6, KF6, HC. Who is EJ as we've heard a couple of them?

COALFIELDS NOTES.

(By VK2KZ.)

VK2KE.—Doing very little in radio over the holidays, but expecting to be more active in the future. Get on 40 metres on Sundays, Bill; the boys are generally on then rag chewing.

VK2VO.—Also away holidaying in the Ford 10 at Swansea. Playing around with PA systems, on 20 at times; maybe on 80 for coming winter. When are you going to officially open the shack, George?

VK2XT.—Cannot settle down yet, so doing nil in radio. Has invested in a nice car, spent good holiday at Belmont. Let's hear you as soon as you can find a shack.

VK2DG. — Doing considerable amount of service work for BCL sets; on 20 fairly regular, away during holidays at Singleton.

VK2KZ.—On 20 very little, as conditions are very bad in this area, holidaying at Swansea during Xmas. Still thinking of going on phone, or maybe up to 80, for coming winter.

VK2PZ.—Doing all phone work on 20; working some DX, ZS, KA, J W, etc., contemplating new antenna. Interesting himself in Class B modulators. Spent fair holidays during Xmas.

VK2CW.—Sorry to hear you are on the sick list, Bill. Radio activities zero. Good recovery, O.M.

VK2ACG.—Heard of 20 metres using CW. Not too active. In Syd-

ney for holidays. Let's hear more of your.

VK2JE.—Apparently spends all his time at Port Stevens. On 20 metres now and again. Let's hear from you, Jack O.M.

VK2KQ.—Using 20 metres, using phone and key. Thinking of putting up a new antenna.

VK2YL.—Doing a little on 20. WAC on phone every couple of nights, conditions ideal. DX tally now 116 countries. Uses four separate antennas, and sure collects the DX.

I wish to thank all for assistance rendered during 1938, but hoping for more co-operation in 1939. It's up to you, boys.

73. Max.

Victorian Division

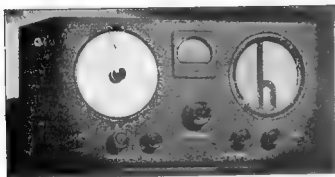
KEY SECTION NOTES.

(By 30C.)

Although this is not the book re-

view department, your correspondent cannot refrain from recommending "For Murder Will Speak," by J. J. Connington. Amateur radio plays the main part in the plot of this "oodunnit," which is well written and interesting. The writer, although perhaps not a ham, has been well advised as to technical details, and the book is free from the usual howlers encountered whenever radio is brought into fiction. If your literary tastes go beyond the "Hand-book" and the like, beg, borrow or steal it.

Visiting Melbourne during Christmas was Jack de Cure, ex 3WL, of DX fame, who originally put Coburg on the map as THE DX district. Did I hear a murmur? He is now a Radio Inspector in Adelaide, and is only active on 28 mc. under the call of 5KO. Looking particularly well, he is a dyed-in-the-wool South Australian, and Melbourne is just another town. How have the mighty



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fallen? From 3CB, who is still charming YL's with that dulcet voice on 200, we learn that 5CR was another South Australian to pay us a call during the holidays.

Probably as a result of the Christmas and New Year festivities, or what have you, the boys have gone all social. It was decided at the January KP meeting that future gatherings would end with a party, light refreshments being on the "bring your own" basis. Certainly sounds to have possibilities, and at least worth a try.

RX who has, between drinks, been restoring the worn-out tissues in Tasmania, is trying to solve the mystery of the lack of co-operation between the hams in the North and the South of that island. It sounds reminiscent of the Civil War with Union and Confederate States, but as they don't keep slaves in the South the reason is not so obvious.

The New Year seems to have ushered in an epidemic of ethereal activity. UG, US and NH are all in need of that yet uninvited sky hook. IG has been comparing the relative merits of two half waves in phase and a V beam, the latter winning by some lengths (literally and otherwise). CO puts his faith in half waves in phase on 14mc., and HK has adorned the back yard with a three element rotary close spaced beam on 28 mc., with encouraging results to both himself and the local sparrows.

Trying to stop self oscillation in 807's seems to be giving some of the boys headaches. DP has struck trouble with his, and it is at present in the hands of A.W.A. for a check. On top of this, his Super Gainer, usually a well behaved animal, began playing up. EV has apparently had better luck with his 807, and has been working good DX on 7 mc. Also on 7mc. is RN, who is building a modulator and would like a few ideas. I could think of one good one!

Between bouts of rebuilding, 3MR has been entertaining a YL friend of 7YL from Tasmania. 7YL, by the way, is now engaged to 7JB and vice versa. Victorian honours are upheld by PJ whose engagement was an-

nounced just before Christmas. To both couples, your correspondent's blessings. MR's new outfit is due to be pushing holes in the ether by the time this has gone to press—getting the bugs out will take him about as long as it takes the printer to dash off this issue!

With a new 8 tube super on the way, UM is deserting 14 mc. for 28 and 56 mc. Let's hope he starts a fashion—the hiding that poor unfortunate 14 mc. band has had in recent years should make Hertz turn in his grave. UM, with ZU, was also moved up in the Christmas Day hook-up with a string of stations, the call letters of which look like an Admiralty code message on the European situation.

Another couple of supporters of the 807 are AH and ZH. The former is installing 6B5's in a modulator for his 807 PA, and the latter has just finished a similar PA.

The recent tragic bush fires have again demonstrated the practical uses to which amateur radio can be put in times of emergency. Although in many cases communication was restored soon after amateurs and gear had been rushed to stricken areas, a great deal of excellent work was done, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will realise, more so than they have done in the past, the potential asset which the community possesses in an organisation such as ours.

U.H.F. SECTION NOTES. (By 3JO)

Section meeting nights. — Third Tuesday every month at the W.I.A. Rooms at 2000 hours, the February meeting being on 21st.

Wanted—56 mc. schedules.

In the past, we have noticed, scattered about the various pages of A.R., 56 mc. skeds that someone is running for somebody's benefit. How much better would it be if all these were entered together? And what better place than at the beginning of these notes? We have also heard rumours of skeds which appear to be known to only a favoured few. What about letting everyone interested in on these,

Amateur Radio

chaps? Drop us a line before the 18th of the month, and we'll do the rest. Strange as it may seem to some, these notes ARE read by many who are interested and who might be otherwise unaware of the skeds and thus be missing a great opportunity to open up the 56 mc. band.

Most of the VK3 chaps are still in the act of bringing their gear to a higher degree of efficiency before making any definite skeds. In the meantime we are active amongst ourselves at night time during the week, and more especially on Sunday nights.

Interest at present is mainly centred around the field day arranged for Sunday, February 26th. 3OF and 3OT will be located at Fish Creek and Mt. Tarrangower respectively, and fully expect to make definite contact this time, having heard each other on two previous occasions. Distance approx. 160 miles. The 3VH/JO combination intend trying the Arthur's Seat location, and 3ML will also be on location (unknown). Nothing definite is known about other portable stations, but we anticipate that many country stations, not obliterated by bush fires, will be about, and in VK7, Gil Miles, 7KQ, will be on top of Mt. Wellington with fone, tone mod., cw., beam antennae and a SUPER super-het.

Just prior to the holidays, tests were conducted by 3WT and 3BU in Geelong and 3HP, 3QR and 3JO in Melbourne. No 56 mc. signals were

heard at either end, but contact was made by 3QR and 3WT on 7 mc. The field day should give the hams at Geelong and other country centres an opportunity to try out their gear, and thus make the day more interesting for all concerned. Country stations intending to participate are asked to notify us of their locations and other details in order that we may be aware of their activities. Please let us have a copy of your field day log, chaps.

EASTERN ZONE NOTES.

The recent disastrous bush fires, which were especially bad in this Zone, have shown us all how Ham Radio can rise to the occasion in an emergency, and our Zone President, 3WE, handled hundred or more telegrams when Omeo was cut off from the outside world. Other members of the zone who did their bit were 3XH, 3VG, 3XZ, also 3KM and 3EG in the N.E. 3PR stood by and tried to keep the channels used by the QRR stations clear.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, there has not been very much activity in this Zone.

Members are requested to remember that the Zone hook-up will start again at 8.30 p.m. on 80 mx on Thursday, 2nd February, and a full muster of members is requested.

3DI.—Jim is QRL with service work.

3EA.—Evan reported to be installing gear on his boat.



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3HZ.—Murray on occasionally, but 3UL keeps him busy.

3XZ.—Wee MacGregor has been getting his name in a well known weekly radio paper. Seems that a YL is troubling Mac. Hi!

3SS.—Keith has not been heard since the Maffra Show. Is the rig still wet?

3PR.—Ron manages to get on occasionally. Gave 20 mx a fly, but DX is scarce just now.

3WE.—Bill has 809's in class B as modulators now, and is putting out some good fone on 40 and 80 mx.

3OE.—Jack busy working a little DX in the early mornings.

NORTHERN ZONE.

Plans for the Northern Zone Convention are under way, and further particulars will be given later.

Conditions for the past month have been far from pleasant owing to the very hot spell, but it is expected that DX conditions will improve shortly.

3TL.—Spending most of his time on 20 mx., and is working some very nice DX.

3OR.—Reckons that he has made an all-time record. Murray's antenna blew down, so he coupled his final tank to the fly-wire screen on 40 mx, and got RST 599 from 3XB. As the screen is a patent roll-up type, Murray reckons that he will be able to tune by rolling up the screen.

3JG.—Using an 804, with a modest input, continues to work DX on 20 mx.

3BM.—With a 120ft. stick and sundry Vee beams, thinks nothing of working anything at all.

3EP.—Late of Rochester, but now of Bendigo, is inactive as far as radio is concerned; lives next to 3QC in Bendigo. Guess Ted will come back with a rush one of these days.

3QC, of Bendigo.—What are you doing, Bruce?

3AI.—Is back on the air with a 19 CO and 10 final.

3IH.—Still works 3ZK on 80 mx.

3KY.—Punches holes on 40 mx with nice quality fone.

3DU-TC.—Spent a week with 3HX; succeeded in blowing 3HX's famous 6P6, and now 3HX is cleaning up the haywire.

WESTERN ZONE NOTES.

(By VK3TW.)

Maybe I'm "non compus mentis," but I'll wager a cracked crystal that the Western Zone notes were posted at least fourteen days before the due date, but, so help me. I couldn't find 'em in the January issue. (Don't blame 3RX—he was in Tassie last month).

3SZ.—Stan fairly active on 40 mx phone, running about 2 watts and filling the carrier nicely.

3TN.—Still waiting on you, Mort.

3II.—Leigh vacationing by the briny; will soon be on QRP with 807 in the final.

3GN.—No much heard of you lately, George; has the push-pull sound track got you worried?

3TW.—Rebuilt again. What, again? And improves every time, too. Should have a respectable job in about two years at the present rate of progress.

3DZ.—Back in Portland, but has not been heard yet.

3NK.—Heard on 40 with very nice sigs.

3JA.—Genemotor went west again and now on with QRP from small genemotor working dx.

3WT.—Bemoaning the fact that he can't get any DX. Has very high noise level.

3OW.—Active occasionally, and working so nice DX.

3HG.—Another who lost his big genemotor, and now QRP, but still working the DX with no apparent loss in signal strength.

Our President requests a weekly Western Zone hook-up. Listen for 3HG every Sunday at 10 a.m.

PHONE SECTION NEWS AND NOTES.

I must apologise for the absence of these notes in the last issue of the magazine, but owing to the pressure of the Christmas rush I was unable to find time to prepare them.

The much discussed cricket match between the Phone Gang and the Key Punchers will definitely come off about the middle of March. Now Key chaps, you will have plenty of time to practise, and, believe me, you will need it.

Took a week-end trip down Mirboo North way a short time ago, and dragged the set along with me. On the 200 metre band the only one audible was 3LN, so the new rig must be good after all, Len. What's wrong with giving your call sign now and again, S.W. phone chaps? I listened to a couple of you on 20 metres a short while ago, and one did not give a call sign for over 40 minutes. Apart from regs., we like to know who you are.

This is all for the present, but there should be plenty in next month's issue as all your Xmas doings can be chronicled.

South Australian Division

The Christmas meeting took

place on December 21st in the form of a social, and was a great success. The new syllabus will be available by now, to be followed by a special meeting of members this month to inaugurate the new constitution, which is hoped to be in action for the new financial year.

On Wednesday, 18th, at the general meeting after such destructive bush fires had swept the State, a discussion was held to bring all members into a highly organised body. See article elsewhere for full details of activity by hams in this State. Conditions on ten have been very poor over the last month or two. Twenty has been full of good DX, and the South Africans are quite easy to contact.

A new effort is to be made by Mr. Bourne, 5BU and 5KL to rebuild 5WI.

After the work done by those in operating portable stations in the fire areas, perhaps more emergency gear will be built and kept in readiness for such times as they are needed.

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WAKEFIELD ZONE.

(By VK5RE.)

VK5LR.—Jack and Mrs. Jack have been for a motoring tour down through the South Eastern district of South Australia. Jack took a portable rig and had a real ham holiday.

Pete, of VK5GS, recently visited Mildura and met some of the VK3 boys.

VK5RE had a visit from Gordon Ragless, of 5GR fame, and Harry Wheeler, with the call of 5HW on his finger-tips. Gordon and Harry "went bush" and camped in the approved "swaggies" style, though they walked not—but sped in a motor car!

We in the country are always pleased to welcome our city friends, and it would be to the advantage of radio in general if interchange of visits were more frequent; all are welcome at this station.

Ron and Nancy Green have been away for a camp, and I have heard that Ron mistook the sea sand for salt, and since then he "grits" a little.

Saw Bert Stacey and YL dashing off on an "Angel-maker" (motor bike), so spouse I'll have to start saving up for a present.

Harold Fisher has finished all his I.C.S. exams. Good luck!

Merv. Tucker has a beaut. big motor boat. Some day I'm going to be taken for an outing. So what about it, "Tuck"?

Allan Cunningham hard at his studies. Stick to it, Allan, and best of good luck, O.B.

Well, that's the "doings" this month, but, believe me, I would be pleased to get a note from any in my area.

GREY ZONE.

(By VK5LC.)

Well, chaps, here we are in the new year, and still is darn hot. Been over 116 deg. for the last week.

Many thanks to Leith, VK5LG, Bill, VK5HR, and Tom, VK5TL, for letting me know their activities.

5LG.—Busy on 20 mx, and as the power is off on Sundays he doesn't QSY up, which is the reason

we don't hear him. Leith is using 42, 46, 809, link coupled throughout, and 50 watts input. Yes, radio waves do affect pigeons!

5TL.—Tom has built C.C. rig with two 19's.

5HR.—Good old, Bill, he couldn't stay off the air longer than a year. Going on high power, too!

We have another ham in this zone in 5GU, and Geoff Rosewarne is sitting for his ticket this month. Good luck, Geoff! Now, are you chaps members of the W.I.A.? If not, why not?

5NW.—Bob has been off the air mainly because he has not been at home week-ends, but now that he has been successful in getting his talkie op. ticket he is home to show week-ends.

5WG.—Wally has launched out in business; hard at it now as radio retailer and service man, so he is not on the air.

Ex-5FB.—Frank has gone to sea. Good place this weather. Let's hear from you, Frank, if you get "A.R."

5MP.—Don't hear much of your activities these days, Len.

5FW.—Although Eric is living in this zone, his station is not here, but a few notes won't hurt; he has gone into double harness. Congrats, Eric. Address is Gladstone. Let's hear that you are going on the air.

5BK.—What's happened to you, Jack? Do not hear much about you. Can't you get 5CK working O.K. so that you can put 5BK on?

5LC.—Have been down on 20 mx, but condx were bad; able to work VK2's by the dozen, but couldn't hear VK3's or VK5's here; only heard VK5's once (about 3 weeks ago) in seven years on 20 mx, and they were R9. Worked two K6's with 3 watts input, Q5, R7/5.

BARKER ZONE.

(By VK5PN.)

Hello, chaps. First of all, let me tell you that I am writing the notes this month only because your Zone Officer has been taking a holiday. Yes, George, was in the city for a few days, and a real "ham" holiday it proved to be; visits to as many

shacks as time permitted, gathering ideas on fone systems, antennae, etc. Had a look at the Murray Bridge gang on his way home, and perhaps I had better leave it to George to tell you next month just what he saw, what he discussed, and so forth. Some of the South-Eastern chaps, I understand, have been doing distinguished work during the bush fire emergency. It is hoped that the full story will be available next month. Now, before I sign off, just a reminder. Your Zone Officer simply hates having to guess at what you do to pass away your radio hours, and really the rest of the gang have warm spots in their hearts for you, and invariably turn to this page first to read about you. Very well, then, reach for the pen and ink, and pour out your innermost thoughts into an epistle to VK6GW. He will do the rest. (And 3RX will have to censor some of it!)

Western Australian Division

(By VK6WZ.)

Conditions have shown less change and present a much less interesting topic than personalities and details of rig changes. As far as present writer knows no VK6 is active on 1.7 or 3.5 mc. QRN is bad and sigs scarce so no wonder these bands are unpopular. 7mc. shows usual weekend activity, but during week nights this band is almost as devoid of VK6 calls as the lower frequencies. A little DX may be worked now and again providing the ears will stand up to the battering of the noise level. 14 mc. still popular with Dx-ers but condx. still patchy. 28mc. spasmodic and nothing known of happenings on that band. 56 mc. still attracts a few regulars and in addition now boasts a regular schedule. It is that of 6BB (a five-mx stalwart surely), who goes on crystal-controlled xmission every Wednesday and Thursday between 1300 and 1430 G.M.T. on 56.744 mc. Speech and music are radiated and the antenna at present used is non-directional. Reports eagerly awaited.

In the Winchell Way:—

Flash! 6WI actually on the air Sunday mornings . . . slow c.w. be-

tween 9.30 and 10 a.m. (Perth time) for country members, students and hams in general. Look on 7,000 kc.

Station-manager 6NL rashly volunteered to build modulator for 6WI if gear forthcoming. Offer snapped up . . . feverish activity on Val's part.

Reported missing—6YL, 6JC, 6ZZ, 6N, 6DF, 6PK, 6AR, and sundry others.

Another flash! (Across tank condenser—on modulation peaks) 6GB in trouble with new T40 final . . . won't behave . . . quality, too, not quite so good as with old rig. Jack's modulators are class-B 46's and not 6L6G's as reported last month.

6YZ joining ranks of QRO merchants and rebuilding to the tune of 802 tri-tet; 802 buff-doub. and HY40 final. Fit fuses in your aerial coils, boys!

6WH heard calling 5WM (Bill Morris, ex-6WM) on 7 mc. c.w. lately. Any luck Ted?

6FL proud owner of two half waves in phase and working DX like nobody's business.

6RB and 6RU, two recent calls, former QRP, latter QRO.

Flash! Will VK stations outside of VK6 working friend "VK6BK" (xial note, freq. near 7040) please get him to QTH?

6AH of Wiluna heard occasionally with strong signal in metropolitan area but rather distorted fone. Should be 100 per cent. signal when difficulty ironed out.

6AW very proud of his 25A6's.

6HT ? ? ?

6WG, late of Wiluna, said to be in Albany. How's about it, Wally?

6EC, late of Albany, now in Perth, still silent. Too much work, Eric?

6MN, one of the old timers to make an appearance on 7 and 14 mc. now and then.

6WL missing for a few weeks. How, Les?

6MW wrapped in deep silence, said to be on holidays.

6GM on at rare intervals.

Ditto his Field Day Committee henchman, 6FR.

6BB active on five.

6LW overheard working above in duplex QSO (7mc. versus 56 mc.) on recent afternoon.

Tasmanian Division

(By 7YL.)

The first meeting for the new year was held in the Y.M.C.A. rooms on the 10th. The attendance was much better than usual, and it is hoped that members will make every endeavour throughout the year to attend meetings whenever possible. In this way much more can be accomplished.

All VK7 members were very sorry to have to say "adieu" to 7JB, who has been transferred to VK2 for eight months. As it was impossible for him to stay at the meeting owing to a pressing engagement, it was agreed that members who were able should go to see him off on the "Zealandia."

Quite a few hams turned up and during the farewells "Buck" was presented with a little gift in the form of a pipe as a token of esteem from the members of this division.

Members of the North West coast and Queenstown who received magazines late last month must excuse, as the mags were held up in Launceston and were much later arriving here than those which came direct.

Will all members please note the change in address of QSL Bureau, and in future send their qsl's to VK7YL, c/o 547E, G.P.O., Hobart.

Owing to the fact that the humble scribe was rather lax last month no notes were forthcoming concerning the December meeting, so "better late than never." This meeting was very very poorly attended, but this was in all probability due to the fact that it was only a few days before Christmas and many members had to work back late and so were unable to attend. As both secretary and assistant ditto were amongst the poor unfortunates the meeting was conducted very ably by 7PA. Peter filled the breach in a most efficient manner.

We were glad to welcome 3RX from Melbourne for a day or so in Hobart. He gave us some helpful advice, and the hams who had the pleasure of meeting him were sorry his visit was so short. Cedric is still

wondering why there are not more accidents in VK7 because the traffic travels at such a terrific speed, hi!

Scandal:—

7AH.—"Pop," besides taking an active interest in the activities of the Institute, finds time to tend his several fine opossums and do a spot of building.

7JB.—"Buck" is now in Sydney, and probably at the moment sweltering in the heat doing bayonet drill. Bear up, "Buck," we're with you.

7CT.—Had a spot of bother with old man 'flu, but made a good recovery during Christmas holidays, we believe.

7GJ.—We are pleased to welcome you into W.I.A., o.m. Jack has been very active since acquiring his ticket, judging by number of qsl's. Some pretty fb dx too.

7LZ.—Col is a most consistent worker. Has almost completed working all zones. Needs only two or three more, and has some pretty rare dx amongst his contacts.

7RK.—Ray probably will not be on the air much for some time as he has acquired a mo' bike and side car. Rather snappy number. Probably will be known in Launceston as "the Red Terror."

7YL.—Has acquired 7JB's snappy little D2 xtal mike during his absence.

Well, that's all for this month, and if it's not too late, lots of new year 73's.

JOY.

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NORTHERN ZONE.

(By VK7LZ.)

Of late the number of active amateurs in the North has dropped considerably; in the last All Band Contest we had only one representative, namely VK7AB, although we credit this to the fact that the biggest percentage of Tasmanian Amateurs are interested solely in DX.

Whilst mentioning DX I can safely state that the conditions this "season" have been well below par down here and in the Centenary Contest, well DX ceased to exist and to cap the lot the Launceston City Council cut off the power to a big percentage of Launceston for three hours early Sunday morning.

At present in the Northern Zone there are only about four or five really consistent stations on the air, but the activities of most are listed below:—

7KR.—Busy rebuilding, and by the scraps I can hear it seems as though when finished Chas. will have a station and a half.

7RK.—Mostly on for a while about 1 a.m. but of late it seems as though he doesn't get home before bed time. Let's know more for next time, Ray.

7CL.—Only on during school vacations and at present making up for lost time. Merv. is situated at Devonport the rest of the year and has no rig there. When are you going back, Merv.?

7AB.—On occasionally with phone on twenty and forty metres. Doug.

has enough contacts during contests to make up for these periodical spells. His score for the All Band Contest last November stands at 1138 points and 7AB complains of lack of interest in this contest. He worked all States, including VK9.

7BQ.—Trying to work his way down to ten metres and fractured a forty metre crystal before he got there. 7GJ tells me he was reading his watch instead of his mill-meter. Can I interest you in another crystal, BQ.

7GJ.—Jack is a newcomer to the Amateur Ranks and is already working good DX in a business-like manner. Averages about an antenna a week at present and not satisfied yet.

7QZ.—Inactive, but having a darn good time, he says. 7HY, 7AM and 7CJ also inactive.

7LC.—Now engineer at 7QT at Queenstown and not been on the air lately.

7DS.—Another recent addition to Amateur ranks; had trouble with his crystal rig and now using a M.O.P.A. Get that crystal going Hugh, you will, find it better by far.

7LG.—Now using phone and getting ready to assemble a W8JK beam which will be the first around here.

7RZ.—Taken up residence on the mainland I believe.

7LZ.—Chasing DX still with fair results on twenty metres using phone and CW, and has hopes of a better transmitter in the near future.

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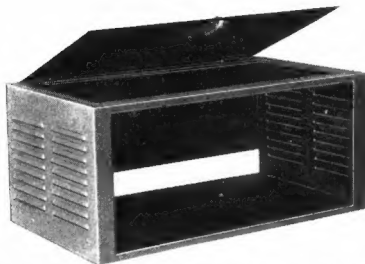
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